

Story 1979 (1992 Tape 4)

Narrator: Leyla Özdemir, 25

Location: Kırklareli, capital of
Kırklareli Province (a
Black Sea or Laz
province)

Date: May 1992

From Laz¹ Fiancé to Laz Fiancé

The girl to whom Temel² was engaged came to him with bad news. She informed Temel that she was breaking their engagement. Upon hearing this, Temel became very upset and very angry. He said to the girl, “Well, it seems obvious to me that you must be in love with some other man. Will you please tell me who he is and where he lives?”

Knowing how strong Temel was, and seeing how angry he had become, the girl, Fadime, was afraid to give him her new lover’s name

¹The word Laz referred originally to an ethnic minority living primarily in Trabzon and Rize provinces, along the extreme eastern part of the Turkish Black Sea coast. More recently the word has come to be applied to any resident of the entire Turkish Black Sea coast. In the Turkish oral tradition Laz people are stereotyped as being stupid or inept. This stereotype (like most others) is unjustifiable, for Lazes are, of course, much like other people.

²In tales about the stereotyped Laz as dummer or fool, the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Temel is the name used most often, with Dursun in second place. Thus if either of these names occurs in a folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale.

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and address. She said, "If I reveal his identity, you will probably kill him, and so I shall not give you that information."

Temel answered, "Are you crazy, Fadime? How could I ever kill a man over such a matter? I want his name and address only in order to see if he would like to buy my engagement ring."